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FOLLOWING REPEAT ROME 9433 ACTION SECSTATE INFO OECD PARIS GENEVA JUL 1.

QUOTE: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ROME 9433

FODAG

E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: FAO

SUBJECT: WORKING GROUP ON INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT (IFAD).

SUMMARY: SESSION OPENED JUNE 30 IN BUSINESSLIKE AND COOPERATIVE ATMOSPHERE. BAYABONA, NIGERIAN DEPUTY FAO PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE CHAIRING SESSION. FIRST DAY DEVOTED TO SHORT STATEMENTS BY DELEGATES SUMMARIZING THEIR CHIEF CONCERNS. END SUMMARY.

- 1. JOHN HANNAH, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF WORLD FOOD COUNCIL, OPENED MEETING WITH STATEMENT EMPHASIZING THAT SECRETARIAT WAS THERE SOLELY TO ASSIST WORKING GROUP. HE THEN TURNED OVER CHAIR TO EDWARD BAYAGBONA OF NIGERIA, AS PREVIOUSLY AGREED WITH 77 AND OTHER GROUPS. BELLAVITA OF PANAMA AND ALPEN OF AUSTRALIA ELECTED FIRST AND SECOND VICE CHAIRMEN.
- $2. \ \mbox{MEETING}$ OPENED IN BUSINESSLIKE AND CONCILIARY ATMOSPHERE. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TO SPEED DEBATE, OBSERVERS MAY NEITHER SPEAK NOR VOTE.

- 3. MOST OF FIRST DAY DEVOTED TO SHORT STATEMENTS HIGHLIGHT-ING WHAT DELEGATES CONSIDER MOST IMPORTANT ASPECTS OF FUND. MOST DAC COUNTRIES AND SEVERAL RECIPIENTS SPOKE, BUT NO POTENTIAL OPEC DONORS TOOK FLOOR.
- 4. MOST DAC COUNTRIES TAKING FLOOR (US, SWEDEN, NETHERLANDS, CANADA, ASUSTRALIA, BELGIUM) EMPHASIZED THE FOLLOWING COMMON THEMES: (1) IFAD SHOULD BE A FUND NOT A SEPARATE BANK AND DISPURSE THROUGH EXISTING IFIS; (2) CONTRIBUTIONS SHOULD BE VOLUNTARY; (3) SECRETARIAT STAFF SHOULD BE SMALL; (4) LENDING SHOULD GIVE PRIORITY TO POORER COUNTRIES OR POORER SEGMENTS OF POPULATIONS; (5) PROVISION SHOULD BE MADE FOR RELATIVELY FAST DISBURSEMENTS, INCLUDING SECTOR OR PROGRAM LENDING. MOST ALSO STATED THEY NEEDED ASSURANCE ABOUT THE SIZE, CONTINUITY AND CHARACTER OF THE FUND BEFORE COMMITTING THEMSELVES TO CONTRIBUTE.
- 5. U.S. RECOMMENDED THAT PLEDGES TO INCREASE BILATERAL AID OVER A BASE YEAR FOR AGREED CRITERIA BE COUNTED AS A CONTRIBUTION AS WELL AS DIRECT CONTRIBUTION THROUGH IFAD. US QUESTIONED WHETHER DEVELOPING DONORS SHOULD ALSO BE RECIPIENTS. SWEDEN SUGGESTED THAT GOVERNING BOARD FOLLOW ONE COUNTRY-ONE VOTE PRINCIPLE TO GIVE LDCS GREATER VOICE.
- 6. LDCS, INCLUDING PAKISTAN, MEXICO, GHANA, ALGERIA AND INDIA SEE IFAD AS FUNCTIONING AT LEAST IN PART AS AN INDEPENDENT FINANCIAL INSTITUTION. INDIA AND ALGERIA FELT ALL DEVELOPING NATIONS SHOULD BE ELIGIBLE, ALTHOUGH THE EMPHASIS SHOULD BE ON POORER NATIONSM INDIA AND GHANA OPPOSED PLEDGES OF BILATERAL AID, I.E. ATTRIBUTION CONCEPT.
- 7. MEETING ENDED EARLY TO ALLOW G-77 INCLUDING DEVELOPING DONORS TO CAUCUS. VOLPE UNQUOTE INGERSOLL

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